

# **SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**MARCH 1, 2010**

**KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

**7:00 P.M.**

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Dr. Benoit, Mr. Biron, Mr. Leclerc, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Lovett. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Nadeau.

## **CREATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT/NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION**

Mrs. Hamilton had invited two gentlemen to speak about the possibility of creating a Slatersville Historic District leading to an eventual National Park designation.

Mr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director of the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, stated that in an historic district, changes to the exteriors of residences are done in a manner that is respectful to the historic characteristics of the town. The local historic district commission would establish a set of standards for the application process to evaluate individual projects to see if they would affect significant historical value. Generally the standards would say that replacements would have to be made with materials that would have the same appearance. Inappropriate changes would be prevented.

Mr. Jan Reitsma, Executive Director of the Blackstone River Valley

**National Heritage Corridor, added that if the historic district is established, it would be a step towards being a part of the National Park designation that is currently being considered for the Blackstone River Valley.**

**Mr. John Flaherty of 10 Green Street stated he would welcome the designation.**

**Mr. Shelly Woodland was present representing the Congregational Church. He had concerns about what would happen if the church wanted to install vinyl siding on the exterior, about the expertise of the members of the Historic District Commission and about the point in history at which the buildings are judged.**

**Mr. Nadeau commented there is no procedure set forth in the ordinance for adding a new historic district but he would be reluctant to see a map on file without a public hearing. This should be treated as a zoning change with advertising and notice to abutters.**

**A public hearing was scheduled for May 3, 2010.**

## **SEWER PROJECT PAY REQUESTS**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted 4 to 1 (Mr. Zwolenski voted no) on a roll call vote to approve payment to James J. Geremia & Associates Inc. for Invoice #17 for Design Services in Phases I, II and III in the amount of \$1,723.09 based upon the**

**recommendation of the Sewer Commission.**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted 5 to 0 on a roll call vote to approve payment to James J. Geremia & Associates Inc. for Invoice #17 for Construction Administration and Resident**

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**Inspection Services for Phase IB in the amount of \$1,781.21 based upon the recommendation of the Sewer Commission.**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted 5 to 0 on a roll call vote to approve payment to Boyle & Fogarty Construction Company for Payment Request No. 14 for (1) Model IH091 Environment One Grinder Pump in the amount of \$2,620.80 based upon the recommendation of the Sewer Commission.**

**1ST READING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: SALARIES AND WAGES**

**Because of the personnel changes in the finance department, Mrs. Hamilton would like to reduce the salary of the Finance Director to \$69,160.00 and increase the salary of the Assistant Finance Director to \$45,000.00.**

**Mr. Leclerc read the ordinance changing the dates for the amended salaries to March 8, 2010 to June 30, 2010. This constitutes the first**

reading.

## **RESIGNATION FROM JUVENILE HEARING BOARD**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to accept the resignation of Christian deRezendes and to send him a letter of appreciation.**

## **GILBANE/RGB TASK ORDER 5 FEASIBILITY SERVICES PROPOSAL**

**A letter was received from Mr. Dan Waugh, Bond Counsel, that stated, after investigation, the work to be performed under the feasibility services proposal is within the scope of the financing authorized by the Act approved in 1999. If the Council so chooses, it may use \$14,500.00 remaining in the 2007 bond.**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc and seconded by Dr. Benoit to approve payment of \$14,500.00 on a lump sum basis to Gilbane/RGB for the following scope:**

**„« Review the current NESDEC Report relative to the latest demographics and its relation with the previous findings at Halliwell School**

**„« Incorporate the projected demographics into an options analysis**

**„« Provide 5 options for the contraction of the existing school facilities to bring them into alignment with the NESDEC report**

**„« Rank the 5 options**

**„« Provide Parametric Estimates for the 5 options**

**„« Prepare a final report for review with members of the Task Force**

and the Town Council incorporating all findings, ranked options and associated parametric estimates

„« Attend meetings as required to present findings and report

Francesca Johannis, School Committee and Halliwell School Building Task Force member, explained the various options that the Task Force has come up with. Five of the six call for moving the children out of Halliwell School and rearranging the classes throughout the other three school buildings.

Once again Mr. Lovett wanted an explanation as to why \$14,500.00 had to be spent to find out if the rearranging of classrooms was possible and why the determination could not be done internally.

Mr. Leclerc stated five options show that the children can be moved around. The study will provide costs associated.

Mrs. Johannis commented that the school administration is not knowledgeable about code requirements and without knowing that and the costs, it is difficult to know which option would be the most feasible.

Roll call vote: Dr. Benoit jV yes; Mr. Biron jV no; Mr. Leclerc jV yes; Mr. Zwolenski jV yes; and Mr. Lovett jV no. The motion passed 3 to 2.

**AWARD OF BID RE: IMC CONTRACT FOR THE NS POLICE**

## **DEPARTMENT**

**The Council received a letter from Mr. Bill Guy, Director of the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, who interviewed**

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**three vendors for the IMC system contract. Of the three vendors, Mr. Guy recommended Bruce Senecal (Vaulted Computer Services) for the position, noting that Mr. Senecal has the background, knowledge and skill set needed to provide the technical services required. Mr. Senecal was also the only one with open availability.**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to award a contract to Bruce R. Senecal d/b/a Vaulted Computer Services as the North Smithfield Police Department IT support person for the IMC software system for a period of two years in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00 per year. The contract will be revised by the Town Solicitor and approved and executed by the Town Administrator.**

## **RESOLUTION RE: REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted 4 to 1 (Mr. Zwolenski voted no) on a roll call vote to adopt the following resolution as amended: §WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §45-31 through 45-33, inclusive, authorizes establishment of a Redevelopment Agency for the purposes of the elimination and**

prevention of blighted and substandard areas and their replacement through redevelopment by well-planned, integrated, stable, safe, and healthful neighborhoods in the manner and by the means provided in the aforementioned chapters. IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield: 1. Findings and Establishment of Redevelopment Agency. A. The Town Council does hereby determine, find and declare that in certain areas of Town there exists blighted and substandard areas as defined in Rhode Island General Laws §45-31-8 which constitute community liabilities requiring redevelopment in the interest of the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the community. B. The Town Council does hereby determine, find and declare that dangers from substandard areas as set forth in Rhode Island General Laws §45-31-3 exist in these areas and the obstacles to private development as set forth in Rhode Island General Laws §45-31-4 make it impossible for private enterprise alone to remedy these conditions of blight. C. The Town Council does hereby determine, find and declare that there is a need for a redevelopment agency to function for the Town of North Smithfield, and that this resolution is intended to fulfill the requirements of Section 45-31-10 of the Rhode Island General Laws. D. Accordingly, there is established a Redevelopment Agency for the Town of North Smithfield pursuant to the authority contained in Rhode Island General Laws §45-31 through 45-33, and this Resolution, together with the Ordinance adding Chapter 17 to the North Smithfield Code of Ordinances adopted simultaneously herewith, shall serve as proof of establishment and authorization of

the agency to transact business and exercise its powers, as provided by Section 45-31-11 of the Rhode Island General Laws. 2. Name of Agency. The agency shall be known as The North Smithfield Redevelopment Agency. 3. Appropriations and Budgeting Control. When the Agency becomes authorized to transact business and exercise its power, the Town Council, pursuant to the powers granted to the Council by the North Smithfield Home Rule Charter, may appropriate money to the Agency. Budget requests from the Agency shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. Appropriations and expenditures shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as other Town departments and agencies as set forth in the Town Charter. 4. Town Council Approval. Town Council approval shall be required for any Redevelopment Agency action involving borrowing, lending or investing money, acquisition or sale of property and taking of property by eminent domain or bringing suit. 5. Personnel. The hiring of all personnel shall be governed by the provisions of the Town Charter and Town Ordinances. 6. Task. The Agency in cooperation with the Planning Department shall provide a description of the area or areas in which blighted and substandard conditions are found and make recommendations as to the area or areas which should be designated for redevelopment. The agency shall report its findings to the Town Council. The report shall include a description of the area or areas which are blighted and substandard and recommendations as to the area or areas which should be designated for redevelopment. 7. Staff. The Town Administrator is authorized to assign staff on an as needed basis to



the Agency upon receipt of a written request. 8. Additional Authority. The Town Council reserves to itself the authority to grant the Agency additional powers as set in Chapters 31, 31.1, 32 and 33 of

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Title 45 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as they may be amended from time to time. 9. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective upon passage.¶

## **1ST READING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

The following amendments were made to the ordinance:

Section 17.2: ¶It is determined and declared by the North Smithfield Town Council that in certain areas of Town there may exist now or in the future blighted and substandard areas . . .¶

Section 17.5: Not an amendment but the Council members agreed to use a lottery system when assigning terms to individual members.

Section 17.7: Spelling correction ¶V ¶A member of an agency may be removed by the town council only after he has been given a copy of the charges against him, which copy shall be served on him at least ten days prior to a public hearing, and after . . .¶

Section 17.11(a)(4): Mr. Nadeau will clean up this section and move

the language regarding eminent domain that begins  
“Notwithstanding anything in state law or herein to the contrary, the  
Agency shall NOT have the power to acquire by eminent domain a fee  
simple estate or interest in the following: . . .” and move it to Section  
17.14.

Section 17.12: “§. . .(g) any and all other agency actions regarding the  
expenditure of funds. in an amount greater than [TBD].”

MOTION by Mr. Biron, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted  
unanimously on an aye vote at 10:30 P.M. to extend the meeting to  
11:00 P.M.

Mr. Leclerc read the ordinance by Section title and this constitutes  
the first reading. The second reading is scheduled for March 15,  
2010.

#### **BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009, 2010 AND 2011**

Mrs. Hamilton stated the funding for schools reported in the  
newspaper was premature. She has spoken with the Rhode Island  
Department of Education and it is a proposal that, if enacted, would  
give North Smithfield \$1.7 million phased in over five years.

Mr. Leclerc asked if the Council members could receive expense and  
revenue reports for each of the departments.

## **KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL ROOF REPAIRS**

**MOTION by Dr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to have the School Department obtain three quotes for the roof repairs and replacement of the existing downspouts and report back to the Council.**

## **APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS**

**MOTION by Mr. Biron, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to appoint Douglas Bennett to the Board of Canvassers for a six-year term that expires March 1, 2016.**

## **APPOINTMENT TO JUVENILE HEARING BOARD**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski and Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to appoint Mary Ann Violette Cardello to complete the three-year term of Christian de Rezendes that expires December 1, 2011.**

**MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 11:04 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk**